We Claim:

1) A method for assisting in providing the correct color for coating compositions, comprising:

a) providing a container of base paint on a weighing member (3),

b) simultaneously dispense more than one colorant into the container (1),

c) determine the load (usually the combined weight of the can and contents) on the weighing member (3) wherein d) the load is compared with data in a database, each datum being a correct load for a particular color for the coating composition, e) the absence of a match between the load and a datum in the database is detected and optionally f) an alarm is sounded or the can and contents are rejected if the absence of a match is detected.

2) A method according to Claim 1 wherein at e) the presence of a match between the load and the datum in the database is detected and optionally an alarm is sounded.

3) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the load is determined using a load cell.

4) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the load is determined using a load cell.

5) A tinting machine system for assisting in providing the correct color for coating compositions , comprising:

a) weighing member (3) on which an open containter (1) of coating composition can be located and which is able to determine the load on the weighing member (3),

b) reservoirs (10) for containing colorants (11),

c) positive displacement members for delivering a plurality of colorants (11) simultaneously from reservoirs (10) into the container (1), wherein the tinting machine system also includes d) at least one processor (5) having at least one storage member in which is stored a database in which each datum is a correct load for a particular color for the coating composition, and having a comparitor for comparing the load after delivery of the colorants (11) into the container (1) with data in the database,

f) signalling member to indicate the absence of a match between the load and a datum in the database; and optionally

g) an alarm or rejection member which is activated when there is an absence of a match.

6) A tinting machine system according to Claim 5 wherein the weighing member (3) is a load cell.

7) A tinting machine system according to Claim 5wherein the positive displacement member (7) is a piston pump.

8) A tinting machine system according to Claim 6 wherein the positive displacement member (7) is a piston pump.

9) A tinting machine system according to any one of Claims 5 wherein the processing member (5) is a computer.

10) A tinting machine system according to any one of Claims 6 wherein the processing member (5) is a computer.

11) A tinting machine system according to any one of Claims 7 wherein the processing member (5) is a computer.

12) A tinting machine system according to Claim 5 wherein the at least one processing member (5) is located remotely from associated parts of the tinting machine system.

13) A tinting machine system according to Claim 6 wherein the at least one processing member (5) is located remotely from associated parts of the tinting machine system.

14) A tinting machine system according to Claim 7 wherein the at least one processing member (5) is located remotely from associated parts of the tinting machine system.

15) A tinting machine system according to Claim 12 wherein the processing member (5) communicates from a remote location to the associated parts of the tinting machine system via the internet, direct telephone, cable or other connection.

16) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the method is used to detect whether or not the correct base paint has been selected for tinting in which a) a can containing base paint (2) is placed on weighing member (3) b) a load due to the base paint (2) is

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determined and compared to the correct load of base paint in the database for the selected color c) the absence of a match between the determined load and the correct load is detected and an alarm sounded.